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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Summit on Sustainability & the Environment Features Top Speakers

(Columbus-September 23, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Summit on Sustainability & the Environment will feature top speakers addressing dramatic changes in our economy and national leadership on the issues of sustainability. A few of the many dynamic speakers and topics are highlighted below:

Jack Hanna, Director Emeritus of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, will reveal insights gained from his extensive travels on how the world is changing.

A lunch panel consisting of AEP's Dennis Welch, Glenda Holderbaum from Battelle, Amy Malick from International Council for Local Environmental initiatives, and Patrick Terrien from Columbus Council on World Affairs will discuss the global impact of local initiatives.

Susan Tomasky and Karen Sloneker from American Electric Power will discuss transmission systems and "smart grid" technology. Jennifer Klein from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Bill Habig from Transportation Matters will discuss federal legislation that addresses global climate change. How we can prepare for the effects of climate change on water supplies will be discussed by Richard Bartz from the United States Geological Survey and Jennifer Fish, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs will address the supply of locally-grown food and the implications for Ohio's economy.

June Williamson, co-author of *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* and recognized national speaker, will discuss how suburbs can get in the sustainability game.

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Cleve Ricksecker with Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District will address recycling in workplaces while Dave Rinebolt with Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and Ray Foeller, from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel discusses how government funded weatherization programs provide multiple benefits.

Join the conversation on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at COSI as we review exciting developments and the next steps to making Ohio sustainable.

Full day general admission tickets can be purchased for \$90, or \$75 for MORPC members, students and non-profits. Tickets to attend the evening reception only are also available for \$15. At the reception, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman will induct four new central Ohio communities into the region's Green Pact. For more information on the event and to register, visit www.greenregion.org.

Designated as central Ohio's metropolitan planning agency, MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments. The Center for Energy & Environment at MORPC serves as a community resource in the region by offering a variety of services including: daily air quality forecasts, trail coordination, educational presentations, watershed planning, home weatherization, government carbon footprint analysis and more.